



HOCKEY CALGARY

Safety Committee Report 2021-2022 Annual Review

With the return of hockey for the 2021-2022 season, the safety committee was actively engaged in topics pertaining to the safety of our athletes.

Dissemination of Research Around Player Safety:

The safety committee reviewed the idea of having a “research corner” on our website that provides a summary of research that Hockey Calgary has supported that relates to player safety and the positive outcomes that have stemmed from that. We met with representatives from the University of Calgary Sport Injury Research and Prevention Centre (SIPRC) to discuss their involvement in assisting us with this idea. They were very supportive and have offered support from their graduate students. The first ‘research corner’ update is in progress. The dissemination of research will be presented as an infographic for ease of interpretation and utility for our members.

COVID Protocols:

The safety committee supported the work that Kevin and Jamie have done regarding the development of COVID-19 protocols for the 2021-2022 season (how teams can manage in the presence of new cases of COVID-19). Kevin provided an overview of the outcome of COVID-19 cases and its effect on hockey operations. Overall, very few team were shut down, relatively speaking. Thank you to Kevin and Jamie for their dedication and hard work in this challenging area.

Support of Research Around Player Safety:

As in previous years, Hockey Calgary participated in the RACE symposium (Wed Sept 29, 2021). This symposium is organized by the Sport Injury Prevention Research Centre (SIPRC) at the University of Calgary. The day of interactive presentations and discussions focused on preventing concussion in youth. On behalf of the safety committee, Kevin was part of a panel in concussion and injury prevention in collision sports.

Building on our collaboration with SPIRC, we distributed a survey to our associations and coaches to solicit feedback regarding barriers and facilitators for concussion harmonization and the implementation of protocols. These efforts allow for research to be integrated into the youth hockey environment in a manner that is meaningful for coaches and athletes.

Research that was supported by our committee and Hockey Calgary in the 2019-2020 hockey season is being presented at the International Olympic Committee



HOCKEY CALGARY

World Congress on Illness and Injury Prevention in Sport. The researched examined the utility of an injury prevention warm-up in U18 and U15 athletes.

Player Safety:

Given highly publicized events in the world relating to the safety of the players, correspondence was sent to the presidents and associations pertaining to the matter of player safety. Resources pertaining to athlete safety were reviewed. We updated our current resource list and increased its visibility to our membership on our website (see link <https://www.hockeycalgary.ca/mental-health-resources>). In addition, Hockey Calgary partnered with “I Got Mind” who provided two seminars regarding managing the power differential in sport. Members of the safety committee attended the 75 min seminar. We reviewed the utility and effectiveness of the seminar. In addition, we discussed the potential of collaborating with our associations to review their policies around coach/player/volunteer discipline (related to behaviours, etc).

The safety committee met on March 29th, 2022. We met with Meghan Costello (Social Work background) from the Luna Centre. Luna is a well-known outfit in the Calgary region. As you can see from the information below, they are offering training, which has been funded by Public Health Agency of Canada, in the area of childhood trauma and how that can impact a child’s behaviour. This may have an impact on how a child socializes and behaves in a sporting environment as well. Meghan provided the information below:

The Project

With support from the Public Health Agency of Canada, the Luna Child and Youth Advocacy Centre developed *Being Trauma Aware (BTA)* as a foundational training to equip frontline professionals and community members with the skills to understand trauma, its impacts on childhood development, and how trauma could be impacting childhood behaviour. At Luna, we believe *BTA* is an important step towards being a trauma-informed organization and, as such, we have made it an essential, required training for Luna’s multi-disciplinary team.

Here is what one of our Calgary Police Officers had to say about the training:
“As a Police Officer I have a duty to serve, having learned about the impact of trauma I have an opportunity now to serve in a way that previously I may have not considered.”

The Ask

We are currently working towards sharing this training nation-wide and are asking for your help in promoting BTA with your staff, multi-disciplinary teams, and across your networks. We have developed a variety of digital and print promotional materials to make it easy for you to share information about *Being Trauma Aware*. All you have to do, is download the materials from the toolkit, and



HOCKEY CALGARY

use them as appropriate across your communications channels to promote BTA with anyone in your network you believe would benefit from the training.

Included in the toolkit is:

- Poster (printable)
- Brochure (printable)
- Digital Ad
- Print Ad
- Email Template
- Social Media posts for Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn, and Twitter

Jody Forbes (social worker) on our safety committee reviewed the course materials. She felt that the materials provided and the course itself was quite good. A link to the course and information will be made available on the Hockey Calgary website in our resources section pertaining to safety.

The safety committee is proud to uphold our mandate of optimizing safety in youth ice hockey for the long-term benefit of our youth athletes.

Respectfully yours,

Geoff Schneider, Karen Pirie, Jody Forbes, and Kevin Kobelka